

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /083 W
-----094679 190607Z /10

R 190500Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9335
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L 5748

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PO, SA
SUBJECT: POTENTIAL ARAB BOYCOTT OF PORTUGAL

REF: (A) LISBON 5922 (B) CAIRO 12381

1. DURING A CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTRY DEPUTY MINISTER FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS ABDUL RAHMAN AL MANSOURI ON AUG 17, DCM RAISED SUBJECT OF ARAB REACTION TO PORTUGAL'S RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL. MANSOURI REPLIED THAT SAG WAS CONCERNED PRIMARILY OVER POSSIBLE CHAIN REACTION STEMMING FROM PORTUGAL'S MOVE. SAG WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT SPAIN, FOLLOWED BY A NUMBER OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES, MIGHT RECOGNIZE ISRAEL IN THE WAKE OF PORTUGAL. SAG HAD SPENT CONSIDERABLE OF MONEY AND EFFORT IN PERSUADING AFRICAN NATIONS TO BREAK RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL AND DID NOT WISH TO SEE THIS TREND REVERSED AT THE PRESENT TIME.

2. MANSOURI WENT ON TO SAY THAT SAUDI ARABIA HOPES TO ENGAGE IN A NEGOTIATING PROCESS THAT WILL EVENTUALLY LEAD TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF ISRAEL AS A LEGITIMATE STATE.
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AT THAT TIME SAG WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO ANY OTHER STATE MAINTAINING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISREL. AT PRESENT, HOWEVER, THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS IS STILL UNDER WAY, AND ISRAEL'S ISOLATION FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IS ONE OF THE CARDS WHICH THE ARABS WISH TO USE IN ACHIEVING A REASONABLE SETTLEMENT WITH THE ISRAELIS. IF A CHAIN REACTION

TOOK PLACE, IT WOULD REDUCE ISRAEL'S ISOLATION, AND
THIS WOULD UNDERCUT THE ARAB BARGAINING POSITION.

3. MANSOURI ALSO SAID THAT HE DOUBTED VERY MUCH THAT
SAUDI ARABIA WOULD USE THE OIL WEAPON OR ATTEMPT TO
INITIATE AN OIL BOYCOTT AGAINST PORTUGAL AS A
RETALIATION FOR RECOGNIZING ISRAEL. HE COMMENTED
THAT SUCH AN EXTREME MOVE WOULD NOT BE AN APPROPRIATE
RESPONSE TO THE PROVOCATION AND POINTED OUT THAT
SAUDI ARABIA IS ON RECORD AS SAYING THAT THE OIL
WEAPON WOULD ONLY BE USED IN CASE SAUDI ARABIA
WERE ATTACK.
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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 19-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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